

Testimony of Capria Marks
Senate Bill 1195

Dear Senator Harp and Representative Walker,

I am a freshman and I attend Common Ground High School. I personally believe that my school is giving me the best education they can afford but it is limited by lack of funds from doing all it could do. I believe that if this law was passed we could have more classes, more teachers, more equipment and money to rebuild our school community, and other improvements that would prepare us for success.

When I realized that charter school students in New Haven only receive \$9,300 per student each year compared to \$14,000 per student in the New Haven Public Schools, I figured that if we had that same amount of money more things could be done within my school. It's not fair for me as a charter student to be educationally and recreationally penalized because of the lack of money that is given to us. This law is personally affecting me. For example, this school year we started a spirit squad to motivate our school's basketball team and encourage students to do well on CAPT Testing, but because of the lack of money we had to pay out of our own pockets and buy our own uniforms for games and school spirit events.

Schools like Wilbur Cross High School and James Hillhouse High School are getting the money they need to sponsor all the sports teams at their schools, and at these schools there are more than three different types sports that a student can choose to play. But for schools like Common Ground High School, it is hard for us to finance one basketball team with uniforms and proper equipment. I also know that if this law were passed it would take about 5 to 10 years before we begin to see the effect that it would have on charter schools, but this timeline is too long for us – the money that New Haven receives for my education should go to my school to fund my education as soon as possible. I just want to be treated with the same amount of respect and money that another public school student is getting, I want to better my high school experience and my education. I support student-based funding to find charter schools and all public schools, fairly and sustainably, and that's why I support Senate Bill 1195.

Sincerely,
Capria Marks